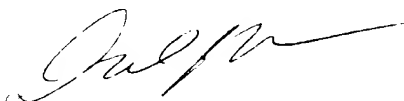


REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are active in the present application. Claims 3-9 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. No new matter is added. An action on the merits and allowance of claims is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 24,618

Daniel J. Pereira, Ph.D.  
Registration No. 45,518



**22850**

(703) 413-3000  
Fax #: (703) 413-2220  
DJPER/kst

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IN THE CLAIMS

--3. (Amended) A process as claimed in claim 1[or 2], wherein the oligomerization is essentially a dimerization.

4. (Amended) A process as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 3] claim 1 carried out at from 30 to 300°C and a pressure in the range of from 10 to 300 bar.

5. (Amended) A process as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 4] claim 1 carried out continuously in the liquid phase.

7. (Amended) A process as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 6] claim 1, wherein the feed mixture is fractionated in a column to separate C<sub>6</sub>-olefins and oligomers prior to the reaction, the C<sub>6</sub>-olefins are returned to the reaction, the reacted mixture is returned to the column and the oligomers (C<sub>7</sub>-hydrocarbons) are discharged.

8. (Amended) A process as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 6] claim 1, wherein the reacted mixture after the reaction is fractionated in a column to separate C<sub>6</sub>-olefins and oligomers, the C<sub>6</sub>-olefins are returned to the reaction and the oligomers are discharged.

9. (Amended) A process as claimed in [any of claims 1 to 8] claim 1, wherein the reaction is passed over a protective bed prior to the reaction.--